

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on the recent legal issue surrounding the availability to minors of an emergency contraceptive drug. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Wednesday decided not to appeal a District Court ruling requiring the sale of an emergency contraceptive known as "Plan B" to minors as young as 17. In March, a U.S. District Court Judge in New York gave the FDA 30 days to lower the age limit for the product's sale to 17.

Fortenberry released the following statement:

"A judge is not a doctor, nor a parent. This ruling jeopardizes the medical health and well-being of minors and recklessly usurps parental authority. This is not sound judicial action. It is a game of politics that harms the integrity of medicine and legal rights of the family.

"I am deeply concerned with the precedent this ruling sets by disregarding parental rights and the health of the child. Like most industrialized nations, the United States has set the age of majority, the legal determination of release from parental authority, at 18, which this ruling directly contradicts. The decision also demonstrates a profound lack of judicial consistency."

###